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THE NATIONAL SCENE

CIA Change: M'Cone Chief

President Kennedy on Wednesday named John A. McCone, former AEC chairman, as Director of Central Intelligence. A day earlier, Mr. Kennedy nominated William C. Foster to be the first head of the new Disarmament Agency.

Last November 10, two days after the balloting, but a week or more before he was certain he won, President-elect John F. Kennedy announced that he had asked Allen W. Dulles to remain as head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

It was one of Mr. Kennedy's first "appointments" and bespoke the bipartisan support and respect the brother of the former Secretary of State commanded.

In taking this step, Mr. Kennedy praised the career intelligence operative and made it plain that while the unfortunate U-2

incident of May, 1960, made political campaign fodder it did not make the creator of the highly successful spy plane program an outcast in the eyes of the new administration.

Mr. Dulles, 68, advised the President-elect that he would stay on for about a year. The year will be up in November, allowing Mr. Dulles to see his dream of a new CIA headquarters (at McLean, Va.) come to fruition.

Earlier this year, following the Cuban invasion debacle, Mr. Dulles' imminent departure was widely forecast in the press and on Capitol Hill. The CIA was in charge of the operation and, although some important signals reportedly were switched by higher authority at the last minute, Mr. Dulles and his agency bore the brunt of the criticism.

But the President was determined that the man who served eight Presidents in a remarkable career of service would not leave Washington as a scapegoat. Not that the CIA was faultless on the Cuban fiasco, but advice received from other quarters was far from perfect.

And so, when Mr. Kennedy announced last week the appoint-

ment of John A. McCone, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, as the new Director of Central Intelligence, he expressed his "profound regret" that Mr. Dulles should be retiring after more than eight years as CIA chief.

Mr. McCone, a Republican who served in both the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, takes over at a time when the CIA reportedly is undergoing substantial change. No details have been announced, but the post-Cuba reports of the Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor-Robert Kennedy survey and of the board of study headed by Dr. James R. Killian have long since been completed.

One thing appears likely. The recent unification of the armed services' intelligence branches means a stronger Pentagon voice in the sections of the National Intelligence Estimates dealing with Sino-Soviet military strength. If it does, there obviously would be a correspondingly smaller voice for CIA in this area.

Mr. McCone is considered "tough" in his ideas on how we should deal with the Soviet Union. His persistent pleas over the last year or so that we promptly re-

sume nuclear weapons testing is cited in this regard. The man who soon will become chief of the silent, super-secret organization, began work as a riveter in a boiler shop.

On Tuesday, Mr. Kennedy had dipped into Republican ranks for a man to head another top administration post. He nominated William C. Foster as first director of the new United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Like Mr. McCone, Mr. Foster served under President Truman and joins these other Republicans working for the Kennedy administration:

Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense; Douglas Dillon, Secretary of the Treasury; Arthur Dean, disarmament negotiator; Gen. Lucius Clay, diplomatic representative in Berlin; and McGeorge Bundy, White House aide.

In the event of armed conflict, the President has a good running start on a national unity Government.

In the event of verbal conflict with the Republicans—and this appears inevitable—he has added ammunition to meet any charges that his administration is "soft" in dealing with the Russians.